

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 9, please delete the last paragraph beginning at line 25, and insert the following replacement paragraph:

~~FIG. 7A to FIG. 7C are~~ FIG. 7 is a block diagram showing the arrangement of the controller 202 and its related parts appearing in FIG. 2A and FIG. 2B;

On page 10, please delete the first paragraph and insert the following replacement paragraph:

~~FIG. 8 is a~~ FIGS. 8A to 8C are block diagrams showing the arrangement of a RCON 216 and its related parts appearing in FIG. 2A and FIG. 2B;

On page 23 and continuing on to page 24, please delete the last paragraph beginning at line 22 and insert the following replacement paragraph:

According to the above arrangement of the DCON 201 shown in FIG. 3A to FIG. 3C, when the SLEEP signal from a main-chip microcomputer Q701, described in detail hereinafter with reference to ~~FIG. 7A to FIG. 7C~~, is high, the power supply P5VB to the microcomputer Q301 is cut off, to save the electric power to the microcomputer Q301, whereby energy conservation is achieved. Further, since the signal switching circuits Q304, Q305, Q306, Q308 are driven in place of the microcomputer Q301, it is possible to continue communication of information, such as the status, with the controller 202, while minimizing power consumption.

On page 29, please delete the paragraph beginning at line 13 and insert the following replacement paragraph:

FIG. 7 is a ~~7A to FIG. 7C~~ block diagram showing details of the arrangement of the controller 202 and its related parts appearing in FIG. 2A and FIG. 2B.

On page 29, please delete the paragraph beginning at line 16 and insert the following replacement paragraph:

In FIG. 7 ~~7A to FIG. 7C~~, reference numerals 701 to 708 designate interface circuits (IF circuits) each of which interfaces between a specific device and a 1-chip microcomputer Q702 or a main-chip microcomputer Q701.

On page 30, please delete the paragraph beginning at line 9 and insert the following replacement paragraph:

The power supplies P5VA, P5VB, P5VC are applied not only to the circuit shown in FIG. 7 ~~FIG. 7A to FIG. 7C~~, but also to respective circuits shown in FIGS. 3A to 6B, 8A to 10B ~~3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10~~, and the power supplies P5VA, P5VB, P5VC in these figures are controlled according to flowcharts shown in FIGS. 11, 12, 13, 14.

On page 41, please delete the paragraph beginning at line 18 and insert the following replacement paragraph:

FIGS. 8A to 8C are ~~FIG. 8 is a~~ block diagrams showing details of the arrangement of the RCON 216 and its related parts appearing in FIG. 2A and FIG. 2B. Component parts and signals corresponding to those in FIG. 2A and FIG. 2B are designated by identical reference numerals.

On page 41, please delete the paragraph beginning at line 23 and insert the following replacement paragraph:

Compared with the DCON 201 shown in FIG. 3A to FIG. 3C, the RCON 216 shown in FIGS. 8A to 8C ~~in FIG. 8~~ has a major difference in that the printer DC load group 211 is replaced by the reader DC load group 220 appearing in FIG. 2A and FIG. 2B. Reference numerals 901 to 904, 908, 909 designate interface circuits (IF circuits). The IF circuit 901 is comprised of an IF circuit 2 and an IF circuit 3. The IF circuit 902 is comprised of an IF circuit DC-3.

On page 44 and continuing on to page 45, please delete the paragraph beginning at line 21 and insert the following replacement paragraph:

The IF circuit 2 in the optional sheet feed unit 214 can communicate with the IF circuit 18 307 of the DCON 201 via the interface IF-18 appearing in FIG. 3A to FIG. 3C. A signal S-OUT 2 from the IF circuit 18 307 is inputted to the parallel/serial conversion section Q302, and a signal S-IN 2 to the IF circuit 18 307 is supplied from the serial/parallel conversion section Q303. Further, the LOAD, SLEEP and SCLK signals to the IF circuit 18 307 are outputted from the IF circuit 309. In FIG. 8A, symbol S-OUT 2 represents data R-IN 16 - R-IN 31, referred to hereinafter.

On page 66, please delete the first paragraph and insert the following replacement paragraph:

FIG. 15 is a block diagram showing details of the arrangement of a controller and its related parts of an image forming apparatus according to the second embodiment. Component parts and signals corresponding to those in FIG. 7 ~~FIG. 7A to FIG. 7C~~ are designated by identical reference numerals. Hereafter, only different components and signals from those in the first embodiment will be explained, and description of the components corresponding to those in the first embodiment is omitted.